

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/612,730

Examiner

Talivaldis Ivars Smits

Applicant(s)

LEE, LIN-SHAN

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 9/18/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-48.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In response to the Ex Parte Quayle Action, mailed 7/18/2007, applicant has submitted an Amendment, filed 9/18/2007, correcting the multiple dependence informality in claim 34 which led to the objections to claims 34-38. This has placed the application in condition for allowance, for reasons given next.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-48 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowed because it recites speech-based information retrieval in Mandarin Chinese using as indexing terms adjacent ("overlapping") syllable segments of a specific number of syllables in sequence ("specific length"), wherein the specific length can be assigned arbitrarily.

While Lee-Feng Chien *et al* teach using Mandarin Chinese syllables for information retrieval in Mandarin Chinese, they do not teach the use of syllable sequences of arbitrary prespecified length as indexing terms to do so.

Claim 6 is allowed because it recites using Mandarin Chinese syllables separated by at least one syllable as indexing terms for speech-based information retrieval in Mandarin Chinese.

While Lee-Feng Chien *et al* teach using Mandarin Chinese syllables for information retrieval in Mandarin Chinese, they do not teach the use of syllables separated by an arbitrary prespecified number of syllables as indexing terms to do so.

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-48 are allowed because they further limit their independent claims or their parent claims.

Conclusion

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Talivaldis Ivars Smits whose telephone number is 571-272-7628. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

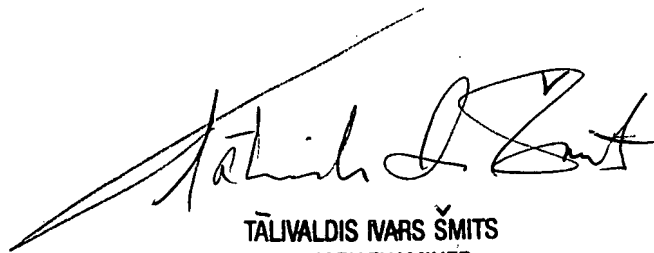
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

9/28/2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tālivaldis Ivars Šmits', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the left side of the signature.

TĀLIVALDIS IVARS ŠMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER